

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) A support system for sales of products, comprising:

a terminal system 54 including an input means system for inputting that receives input information on a product provided from the customer and a display means for displaying information on the product to the customer, the information on the product from the customers including a purchase order of the product; and

an a information management system 53 connected to said terminal system ~~systems~~ and a product facility that can provide various products including the ordered product, to communicate therewith, the information management system receiving the purchase order of the product from the terminal system, selecting a facility that can provide the ordered product, and transmitting to the product facility instructions for providing the product, the information management system comprising a design management system that manages design data on products, the design management system comprising:

a standard product memory;
a patterned special type product memory that stores shapes of a plurality of patterned special type products and parameters defining dimensions of the shapes;

a system that determines whether the ordered product is a standard product or a patterned special type product on the basis of data for the ordered product entered from the input system of the terminal system;

a display system that displays on the display of the terminal system a shape and parameters of a patterned special type product that corresponds to the ordered product when it is determined the ordered product is a patterned special type; and

a receiver that receives dimension data for each of the parameters entered from the input system of the terminal system and for outputting the design data for the patterned special type product.

4. (Currently Amended) The support system of claim 3, wherein the terminal system includes a memory means 83 for storing product data on standard and patterned special type products, and a first quotation system means 87 for calculating quotations for the standard products and patterned special type products.

5. (Currently Amended) The support system of claim 4, wherein the quotation includes the price and date of delivery.

6. (Currently Amended) The support system of claim 5, wherein the quotation includes the processing tolerance of the product.

7. (Currently Amended) The support system of claim 3, wherein the input ~~means system 84 is adapted to~~ receives input of a quotation request on the product, and the display ~~means 83 is adapted to display~~ displays the quotation on the product to the customer.

8. (Currently Amended) The support system of claim 3, wherein the information management system 53 includes a design management system that manages ~~57 for managing~~ design data on at least the patterned special type product.

9. (Currently Amended) The support system of claim 8, wherein the information management system 53 includes a second quotation calculation ~~means~~ system 89 for calculating quotations for non-patterned special type products which do not belong to the standard products and patterned special type products.

10. (Currently Amended) The support system of claim 9, wherein the second quotation calculation ~~means~~ system 89 calculates the price based on a structure figure of the non-patterned special type products.

11. (Currently Amended) The support system of claim 8, wherein the design management system 53 includes a similar product data storage ~~storing means~~ 90 for storing data of similar product of the non-patterned special type products.

12. (Currently Amended) The support system of claim 8, wherein the design management system 53 includes a design support system 94 for supporting designing of the non-patterned special type products.

13. (Currently Amended) The support system of claim 12, wherein the design support system 94 ~~support~~ supports the designing of a product belonging to the non-patterned special type products based on data of similar products.

14. (Currently Amended) The support system of claim 12, wherein the design management system includes a processing tolerance calculator ~~calculation means~~ 92 for calculating processing tolerance of the non-patterned special type products.

15. (Currently Amended) The support system of claim 3, wherein the information management system 53 includes a product facility management system ~~59a, b~~ for selecting a most suitable product storing facility or most suitable product manufacturing facility.

16. (Currently Amended) The support system of claim 15, wherein the information management system 53 includes a product facility memory storing means ~~93b for memorizing~~ types and amount of products stored in each storing facility as stock.

17. (Currently Amended) The support system of claim 16, wherein the information management system 53 includes a memory storing means ~~for memorizing~~ types of product manufacturable in each factory and a period of time necessary for manufacturing the products.

18. (Currently Amended) The support system of claim 15, wherein the information management system 53 includes a product facility determining system that selects ~~means 95 for selecting~~ a product facility that can manufacture the ~~an~~ ordered product within a date of delivery appointed by a customer.

19. (Currently Amended) The support system of claim 18, wherein the product facility determining ~~means~~ system determines a product facility that is provided with material for manufacturing the product, as the product facility.

20. (Currently Amended) The support system of claim 19, wherein the product facility determining ~~means~~ system selects a product facility that can manufacture the product with least cost.

21. (Currently Amended) The support system of claim 15, wherein the information management system 53 includes an alarm signal generator ~~generating means—97~~ that ~~supervise~~ supervises a product manufacturing process in a manufacturing facility acting as a product facility and ~~generate~~ generates an alarm signal when it is expected that a delay will occur against the appointed date of delivery.

22. (Currently Amended) The support system of claim 15, wherein the information management system 53 includes a stock supervisor ~~supervision means—100~~ that ~~supervise~~ supervises the amount of stock of the product, and ~~send~~ sends to the product facility instructions for replenishing the amount of the stock when it is judged that the amount of the stock is running short in view of the shipping result in the past.

23. (Currently Amended) The support system of claim 15, wherein the information management system includes a date-of-delivery calculator that calculates ~~calculation means for calculating~~ a date of delivery of the product by taking account of a manufacturing period in a manufacturing facility.

24. (Currently Amended) The support system of claim 3, wherein the information management system further includes a transportation agency supervising system that selects ~~supervision means—61 for selecting~~ a transportation agency that transports the product from the product facility to a customer.

25. (Currently Amended) The support system of claim 3, wherein the transportation agency ~~supervision means~~ system 64 includes a transportation agency data memory means—101 for memorizing that stores various data ~~on~~ on a plurality of transportation agencies.

26. (Currently Amended) The support system of claim 24, wherein the transportation agency supervision system ~~means 64~~ includes a transportation agency determining ~~means~~ system 403 for selecting from a plurality of transportation agencies a transportation agency that meets a transportation condition.

27. (Currently Amended) The support system of claim 26, wherein the transportation condition is determined on the basis of at least one of a weight of the product, a distance between the transportation agency and the customer and shipping time.

28. (Currently Amended) The support system of claim 24, wherein the transportation agency supervision system 64 includes a delivery time calculator ~~calculation means 405~~ that calculates a delivery time of the product by taking account of a transportation period taken by the transportation agency.

29. – 33. (Withdrawn)

34. (Currently Amended) A sales support ~~systems~~ system for supporting a design entity, a manufacturing entity or a sales entity of a commodity to provide or procure its commodity or service, the system comprising:

~~wherein the support system is structured so that a server is furnished for the~~
entities, to which an information terminal which has a client function carried by ~~the~~
~~personnel in charge of~~ a user visiting customers may communicate, and by use of this
information terminal, ~~he~~ the user may realize his business of introducing products,
quotations, receipt of orders and consultation at the place of visit, the server including a
design management system that manages design data on commodities, the design
management system comprising:

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_____ a standard commodity memory;
_____ a patterned special type commodity memory that stores shapes of a plurality of
patterned special type commodities and parameters defining dimensions of the shapes;
_____ a system that determines whether an ordered commodity is a standard
commodity or a patterned special type commodity on the basis of data for the ordered
commodity entered from the information terminal;
_____ a display system that displays on the information terminal a shape and
parameters of a patterned special type commodity that corresponds to the ordered
commodity when it is determined the ordered commodity is a patterned special type;
and
_____ a receiver that receives dimension data for each of the parameters entered from
the information terminal and that outputs the design data for the patterned special type
commodity.

35. (Currently Amended) The sales support system for the commodity or service of claim 34, wherein the server manages a customer database and carries out focusing of target customers and management of a visit schedule.

36. (Original) The sales support system for commodity or service of claim 34, wherein the introduction of products includes image representation of electric catalogue and introduction of a cause of a malfunction of a commodity and measure to avoid the malfunction.

37. (Original) The sales support system for commodity or service of claim 34, wherein when a request for quotation is transmitted from the information terminal to the

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server, a result of quotation is transmitted from the server back to the information terminal.

38. (Original) The sales support system for commodity or service of claim 34, wherein the receipt of order is transmitted from the information terminal to the server.

39. (Currently Amended) A sales support system ~~systems~~ for supporting a design entity, a manufacturing entity or a sales entity of a commodity to provide or procure its commodity or service, the system comprising:

~~wherein the system is organized so that by placing a server at the management division of the entities and~~

~~by placing a client located at a remote ~~the outdoor~~ division, and~~
~~a server provided at the management division of the entities, the server which~~
~~client may communicate communicating with the server client so that, various work~~
~~requests and answers between the management division and ~~outdoor~~ remote division~~
~~may be realized immediately by using the communication function between the server~~
~~and client, the server including a design management system that manages design data~~
~~on commodities, the design management system comprising:~~

_____ a standard commodity memory;

_____ a patterned special type commodity memory that stores shapes of a plurality of
patterned special type commodities and parameters defining dimensions of the shapes;

_____ a system that determines whether an ordered commodity is a standard
commodity or a patterned special type commodity on the basis of data for the ordered
commodity entered from the client;

_____ a display system that displays on the client a shape and parameters of a patterned special type commodity that corresponds to the ordered commodity when it is determined the ordered commodity is a patterned special type; and

_____ a receiver that receives dimension data for each of the parameters entered from the client and that outputs the design data for the patterned special type commodity.

40. (Currently Amended) A sales support system ~~systems~~ for supporting a design entity, a manufacturing entity or a sales entity of a commodity to provide or procure ~~its~~ the commodity or service of the entity, the system comprising:

~~wherein the system is organized so that by placing a server at the entity; and~~

~~by placing a client~~ provided at a customer location; and

_____ a server provided at the entity, the server communicating which client may communicate with the server client so that ; various work requests and answers between the entity and the customer may be realized immediately by using the communication function between the server and client, the server including a design management system that manages design data on commodities, the design management system comprising:

_____ a standard commodity memory;

_____ a patterned special type commodity memory that stores shapes of a plurality of patterned special type commodities and parameters defining dimensions of the shapes;

_____ a system that determines whether an ordered commodity is a standard commodity or a patterned special type commodity on the basis of data for the ordered commodity entered from the client;

a display system that displays on the client a shape and parameters of a patterned special type commodity that corresponds to the ordered commodity when it is determined the ordered commodity is a patterned special type; and
a receiver that receives dimension data for each of the parameters entered from the client and that outputs the design data for the patterned special type commodity.

41. (Original) The sales support system for commodity or service of claim 34, wherein the commodity is a machine tool and expendable supplies thereof.

42. (Previously Presented) The sales support system for commodity or service of claim 34, wherein the commodity is a tool or a part of metal processing machine.

43. (Currently Amended) The sales support system for commodity or service of claim 34, wherein the commodity is a blade of a cutting machine.

44. – 68. (Withdrawn)

69. (New) The support system of claim 3, wherein the design management system further comprises a non-patterned special type product memory, and wherein the determining system determines whether the ordered product is a non-patterned special product on the basis of data for the ordered product entered from the input system of the terminal system.

70. (New) The support system of claim 3, wherein the product comprises a metal mold for a sheet metal processing machine.